



HCD WEB NEWS

California Department of Housing and Community Development

Division of Housing Policy Development

December 16, 2005

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: TODAY IN HISTORY

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/today.html>

TODAY'S NEWS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL - Par 3 neighbors get update on proposed housing development - by Brian Seals // Critics and supporters of a proposed 228-unit development on the old Par 3 golf course should have a busy 2006 as the long-discussed project begins winding its way through the approval process. Standard Pacific Homes and Gilroy-based South County Housing are partnering to build a mix of market-rate and affordable housing ...

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2005/December/16/local/stories/06local.htm>

MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD - Panel eyes home resale limits: County now requires developers to provide some homes at below-market prices - By Larry Parsons // A panel of Monterey County planning commissioners will hold formal hearings to determine whether changes are needed on resale restrictions for low-cost homes built under a county law. Four commissioners were named Wednesday to a committee to look into the vexing issue of how long buyers of so-called "inclusionary homes" ...

<http://www.montereyherald.com/mld/mcherald/news/13412595.htm>

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

TRI-VALLEY HERALD - Supervisors approve luxury home development: Reworked plans call for 28 homes on Crow Canyon Place - by Karen Holzmeister // OAKLAND — After two years of environmental tug-of-wars, Alameda County supervisors Tuesday approved luxury homes in an urban Castro Valley woodland while raising larger issues of infill development ...

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_3311029

LOS BANOS ENTERPRISE - Commission OKs rezone for housing project: Former commercial site will be used for 13-acre housing subdivision – by Corey Pride // In a narrow vote Wednesday night, the Planning Commission recommended that the City Council rezone a proposed 22.2 acres of commercial business land to residential land. ... <http://www.losbanosenterprise.com/local/story/11598106p-12329819c.html>

LAND USE / PLANNING

LOS ANGELES TIMES - Air Quality Regulators Impose Rule on Developers San Joaquin Valley builders will have to pay fees or take actions to help reduce pollution - by Miguel Bustillo // San Joaquin Valley air quality officials Thursday approved what are believed to be the nation's first rules requiring developers to pay fees or alter building plans in order to reduce air pollution. The rules, scheduled to take effect in March ... <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-smog16dec16.1,1747535.story>

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE - Central Valley sets smog fees on builders: First levy in nation to link air pollution to new construction – by Greg Lucas // Sacramento -- Central Valley air quality officials, looking for ways to battle deteriorating air quality in the fast-growing region, voted unanimously Thursday to place an air pollution fee on new large-scale residential and commercial development... <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/16/MNGAKG93SQ1.DTL>

FRESNO BEE - Pollution fees fall to builders: City sprawl will cost Valley developers who do not minimize bad air from the increased growth - by Mark Grossi // The San Joaquin Valley on Thursday became the first place in the nation to take on air pollution created by city sprawl. Compelled by state law and prodded by activists, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District board approved unprecedented rules to curb pollution, despite vigorous opposition from builders. ... <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/11597747p-12329427c.html>

SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE - Regulators adopt rules for wineries, developers to clean up air – by Juliana Barbassa // FRESNO, Calif. - Air regulators on Thursday approved the nation's first air quality controls on wineries in an effort to clamp down on the smog-forming chemicals that drift into the atmosphere during fermentation. Among the sweeping reforms ... <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/13420905.htm>

LAKE COUNTY RECORD-BEE - Supervisors approve 'Vintage Faire' subdivision in Middletown - by John Lindblom // LAKEPORT -- Although members of the Middletown Area Planning Committee (MAC) argued with some merit on Tuesday, Dec. 6 that the pending construction of the Village Faire subdivision took the town's destiny out of the hands of the townspeople ... <http://www.record-bee.com/Stories/0,1413,255%7E34256%7E3165192,00.html>

THE DESERT SUN - Indian Springs housing proposal has residents irate: Developer also in hot water over yellowing range – by Xochitl Peña // ... The city has received more than 200 letters from residents opposed to the project. They don't want their green space taken away and replaced with homes. "Many homes will lose their view of the mountains if homes are built on this location," said Mark Riconosciuto ... <http://www.thedesertsun.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051216/NEWS05/512160332/1006>

REAL ESTATE

DATAQUICK REAL ESTATE NEWS

Slower Bay Area home sales, steady price increase – Dec. 15, 2005 // La Jolla, CA -- Bay Area home sales continued to slow on a year-over-year basis while prices continued to climb, a real estate information service reported. A total of 9,717 new and resale houses and condos were sold in the region last month. ... <http://www.dqnews.com/RRBay1205.shtm>

Southland home sales strong, prices hit new peak – Dec. 15, 2005 // La Jolla, CA -- Southern California home sales remained at near- record levels last month as prices continued their climb to new heights, the result of continued demand and the expectation that mortgage interest rates will continue to increase ... <http://www.dqnews.com/RRSCA1205.shtm>

REALTY TIMES - No Song And Dance In Real-Life 'Rent' Story - by Broderick Perkins // When it comes to the Broadway musical-turned-silver screen version of 'Rent', art isn't imitating life. Low-wage earners don't sing and dance their way from one rental payment to the next. They spend most of their time dealing with the day-to-day blues of unaffordable housing. ... http://realtytimes.com/rtcpages/20051215_rent.htm

LOS ANGELES TIMES - Southland Housing Sustains Solid Gains The median price rises 15.4% on robust demand and fears of higher interest rates, data show - by Bill Sing // Southern California's housing boom continued to run on cruise control in November, with the median home price rising 15.4% above the year-earlier level, according to data released Thursday. The statistics were more evidence that the area's 5-year-old housing boom ... <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-homes16dec16,1.5448596.story>

NORTH COUNTY TIMES - Riverside County home prices top \$400,000 – by Chris Bagley // The price of a typical home in Riverside County topped \$400,000 for the first time last month, a sign that the region's real-estate market still has some steam in it, a research firm said Thursday. The median price rose to \$405,000, a 4 percent gain from October ... http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2005/12/16/news/californian/21_30_4612_15_05.txt

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE - Bay Area boom easing: Home sales slow a bit but price growth is still strong – by Kelly Zito // Bay Area home sales in November edged down for the eighth month in a row, but price growth remained strong -- signs of a market that is easing from its frenzied state. The median price for a single-family home in the nine-county region ... <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/16/BUGN8G8R3U1.DTL>

OAKLAND TRIBUNE - Home prices continue climb as sales slide: Bay Area median hits record, but fewer buyers are biting - by Eve Mitchell // The housing boom may not yet be over, but the end appears near as Bay Area home prices continue to soar while the number of homes sold continues to drop. Realtors say now is a good time for buyers to strike a deal. ... http://www.insidebayarea.com/oaklandtribune/localnews/ci_3315140

MORTGAGE ISSUES

SACRAMENTO BEE - Minorities 'gouged' on home loans, study finds - by Andrew McIntosh // Latinos and African Americans in Sacramento, especially residents of lower-income neighborhoods, joined consumers in rural communities statewide in paying more for mortgages than white city dwellers did in 2004, a new report said Thursday. ... <http://www.sacbee.com/content/business/story/13985724p-14819228c.html>

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS - Fed action sends real estate rates lower: Financial markets 'breathe a sigh of relief' [Inman News] // Mortgage rates dropped this week following Tuesday's Fed announcement that its 13-month-long interest rate hikes may be winding down, according to surveys conducted by Freddie Mac and Bankrate.com // <http://www.car.org/index.php?id=MzAxMjI=>

HOMELESSNESS

NORTH COUNTY TIMES - Two winter shelters open in North County – by Craig Tenbroek & David Fried // NORTH COUNTY -- A handful of people showed up Thursday evening to take advantage of winter shelters for the homeless that opened for the season in Vista and Escondido. At Operation Hope, a 14-room shelter for families in Vista ... http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2005/12/16/news/top_stories/21_20_5712_15_05.txt

REDEVELOPMENT / INFILL

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE - Escondido residential proposal approved: Downtown condo will stand 6 stories - by Booyeon Lee // ... The City Council approved a six-story, 82-unit condominium on a commercial block where the Fireside Restaurant used to stand. City officials said the residential building would give the block, near Washington Avenue and Centre City Parkway, a "nice urban feeling" in a downtown that's slowly being transformed. ... http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20051216/news_1m16econ.html

El Cajon council OKs downtown project - by Liz Neely // EL CAJON – A plan to bring offices, retail businesses and a restaurant to a vacant downtown corner is moving forward and construction could begin early next year. The El Cajon City Council voted unanimously Tuesday to approve Priest Development Corp.'s Corners Promenade project ... http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20051216/news_1m16cajon.html

PRESERVATION

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE - Public mining lands won't go on market / NEW TRY VOWED: Large swaths of California acreage would be affected if 1872 legislation is ever amended – by Claire Vitucci // WASHINGTON - House Republicans vowed this week to again introduce legislation that would allow the federal government to sell millions of acres of public land -- including property in and around Joshua Tree National Park, Mojave National Preserve and the San Bernardino and Cleveland national forests. ... http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_D_mining16.1.1d373529.html

PRESERVATION – CONT'D

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE - SONOMA COUNTY: Builders pleased with salamander plan; environmental group critical – by Jim Doyle // The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has endorsed a local conservation plan for Sonoma County's endangered tiger salamanders, a decision that has split environmentalists, some of whom charge that it will speed the wily amphibian's extinction ... <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/16/BAG17G93ND1.DTL>

ECONOMY / POVERTY

FRESNO BEE - Report details Valley's woes: Research links region's problems with Appalachia's - by Michael Doyle // WASHINGTON — The San Joaquin Valley really may be the new Appalachia after all, a new congressional study suggests. The travails sound familiar. Poverty is high, education is low and social needs abound. But the 365-page regional report card released Wednesday, one of the most comprehensive of its kind, also leaves unanswered... <http://www.fresnobee.com/local/story/11593649p-12325725c.html>

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE – EDITORIAL: An edgy economy // THE KATRINA devastation didn't do it. Neither did sky-high oil prices nor hundreds of billions in borrowed foreign money. The U.S. economy is sailing along. It's producing more jobs, only modest inflation and a giddy housing market. ... <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2005/12/16/EDG7RG8FGM1.DTL&hw=HOUSING&sn=040&sc=225>

GOVERNMENT SITES:

California Dept. of Finance – Governor's Budget
http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/BUD_DOCS/Bud_link.htm

California Dept. of Housing & Community Development - Press Releases
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/news/release/>

California Dept. of Housing & Community Development – Bibliographies
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/biblio.html>

California Dept. of Housing & Community Development – HCD Web News
<http://www.hcd.ca.gov/hpd/news/clips.html>

Today's Focus at HUD

[HTTP://WWW.HUD.GOV/focus/focus.html](http://WWW.HUD.GOV/focus/focus.html)

The United States General Accounting Office-GAO Reports

<http://www.gao.gov/audit.htm>

Federal Register, Today's Table of Contents

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html

Federal Register, Year 2005 Recent Table of Contents

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/frcont05.html

COVERAGE INFORMATION:

California Department of Housing and Community Development WEB NEWS service coverage:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week includes electronic format articles retrieved from newspapers or news services that report housing and community development news in California and some national services.

Tuesdays and Thursdays coverage includes only six major California newspapers that are available electronically via the Internet – and any significant related breaking news.

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